

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are rejected. Claims 5 and 12 have been amended. Claim 5 and 12 are now independent claims. Claims 1-14 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based upon the amendments to the claims and the remarks herein.

Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15-18 have been canceled. Claims 5 and 12 have been amended to convert them from dependent claims to base claims. In addition, a correction was made to the base claims to clearly distinguish between a bias control unit and bias operation unit. Support for this amendment is found in the specification and drawings. Page 12, line 8 and 21, FIG. 3, reference character 240 and 260. No new matter was added other than the language and limitations from which the claims formerly depended.

Claims 1, 3-4 and 7-8, 10-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In response, applicants believe that the November 20, 2006 IDS filed after the issuance of the outstanding Office Action, adequately addresses the Office Actions concerns and therefore ask for reconsideration of this ground of rejection. In the pending Office Action it is erroneously claimed that it is well known that semiconductor optical amplifiers only amplify signals and do not possess the claimed 'additional functions' to preform optical to electrical signal conversion or modulation capabilities. The November 20, 2006 IDS provides examples of "additional functions," such as, Japanese application number 08-084133, entitled "Optical Link" which is directed to photoelectric conversion, while Japanese application number 10-229385, entitled "Two-Way Transmission System" is directed to modulation capabilities. Accordingly, one skilled in the art could read applicant's disclosure, as currently presented and would be enabled to make and use the

semiconductor optical amplifier which selectively performs an optical detection function and an optical modulation function as recited in base claim 1 and 8.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Niiho et al (US Pat Pub No. 2003/0228151). In response, applicants note that claims 15-18 have been canceled rendering this ground of rejection moot.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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